



News Release

WISCONSIN ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Welcome home celebration planned for Waukesha's Company B Friday morning

More than 12 months after shipping out to Southwest Asia last year, 55 soldiers from the Wisconsin Army National Guard's Company B, 118th Medical Battalion will be back in Waukesha this week.

National Guard officials are planning a "welcome home" celebration for the unit members and their families Friday morning [Feb. 11] at Waukesha West High School. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

Lieutenant Governor Barbara Lawton will lead the formal program. She will be joined by senior National Guard officers including Maj. Gen. Al Wilkening and Brig. Gen. Kerry Denson, along with officials from Waukesha and Waukesha County, the state legislature and United States Congress.

The welcome home celebration will be held at the Waukesha West High School gym, 3301 Saylesville Road, beginning at 11:00 a.m. Entertainment will be provided by the National Guard's 132nd Army Band of Madison.

Company B, 118th Medical Battalion, was mobilized Dec. 7, 2003, and trained for two months at Fort Drum, N.Y., before deploying to Southwest Asia in early February 2004. Members of the unit served in and around Baghdad where they provided medical support to U.S. and coalition forces and also to Iraqi citizens.

Most of the company's soldiers returned to Fort Drum last week and have been completing demobilization processing with the other soldiers in the Connecticut-based, multi-state medical battalion. Two of the unit's soldiers remain in Kuwait to prepare equipment for shipment back to the United States.

Following this week's return of Company B and the Chippewa Falls-based 264th Engineer Group, the Wisconsin Guard still has about 1,570 soldiers and airmen on active duty. Of those, 1,250 are deployed overseas.

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Note to Editors and News Directors: News media are welcome to cover this event Friday morning at 11:00 a.m. in the Waukesha West High School gym. Use the north (pool) entrance.

Expected participants are Lt. Gov. Barbara Lawton, Maj. Gen. Al Wilkening, Brig. Gen. Kerry Denson, U.S. Sen. Herb Kohl, Sen. Ted Kanavas, Sen. Mary Lazich, Sen. Neal Kedzie, Rep. Ann Nischke, Rep. Mark Gundrum, Rep. Dan Vrakas, Waukesha County Executive Dan Finley and Waukesha Mayor Carol Lombardi. Several other officials have been invited but are not yet confirmed.

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